Janaury 17, 1962

Professor Mildred E. Mathias
Department of Botany
University of California
Los Angeles 24, Calif.

Dear Mildred:

I am sorry for this delayed response to your letter of January 4, but I inadvertently filed with some correspondence from Ray Fosberg and just now found it.

I know absolutely nothing about the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study High School Biology Series, but if you think I could be of service to taxonomy by serving on the ASPT Committee to review their revised materials, I shall be glad to help out.

Among other things, I should want to make sure that plant taxonomy is not neglected in such a curriculum study.

The Iowa City temperature is at the moment -2 F. in the sun, according to the radio with expectation of -15 tonight. This should keep up with perhaps lowered temperatures for the next three days. This information might help you to appreciate all the more the climate you have in S. Cal. Blizzards, ice, and this constant sub-zero weather is getting me down and perhaps giving me the wrong perspective on the offer of a professorship at the University of Hawaii. Have you any comments on the wisdom of accepting such a job in your neighboring state? The botany dept. there is a weak one, and there are many draw-backs apparently to the Univ. of Hawaii. The climate, vegetation, and flora, however, seem at the moment of overwhelming significance in balancing debits and credits. The salary offered, 11,136, is probably not significantly different from my 9500 here, considering the greatly increased cost of living out there. Any comments or suggestions you might have, Mildred, would be most helpful. Ray Fosberg advises against accepting the job.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Thorne